Truckers Convoy and Protective Services

Key Messages – February 10, 2022 12:00 PM

- Good afternoon.

- The situation in Ottawa is generally unchanged – we are seeing lower numbers of people than during the weekend, there are still around 500 trucks parked downtown, and Ottawa Police are continuing with enforcement.

- The Integrated Planning Cell started meeting Tuesday afternoon to assess the Ottawa Police plan, and identify required resources for its implementation. I'll by blunt – I have concerns.

- Subject-matter experts from the RCMP, OPP, Ottawa Police and other police services in the province were identified to be part of the Planning Cell. When they showed up yesterday morning, they were advised Chief Sloly would be sharing the plan with them at noon.

- When the Chief did arrive, he took control of the meeting, told the group what Ottawa Police were going to do, and was not receptive to any feedback from the SMEs on the risks associated with his proposed course of action. There was no openness during this meeting.

- Speaking candidly, Chief Sloly is under immense pressure and is looking to do anything to appear to be taking action. But our assessment is that the information provided by Ottawa Police thus far does not constitute a viable plan.

- However, on a more positive note, as of this morning I understand that barriers have been pierced and that the right people from Ottawa Police are now engaged with the Integrated Planning Cell. I am hopeful more fruitful discussions will take place today.

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- That being said, to plan appropriately, there are unlikely to be any significant actions taken for a few days.

- Although our attention has been focused on downtown Ottawa, we are facing challenges across the country.

- Still in Ottawa, as of this morning a high volume of vehicles forming a Slow Roll Convoy were circling the departures and arrivals lanes at the Ottawa International Airport.

- We are seeing increased action at several POEs. While I will let CBSA speak to the specific elements, there are either significant traffic delays or full-on blockades at Coutts (Alberta), Emerson (Manitoba), Windsor and Sarnia (Ontario).

- The RCMP is the police of jurisdiction for Coutts and Emerson. As you know, we have been engaged on Coutts for quite some time and efforts are still underway today to move the protestors to the plot of land west of Milk River, that was approved by the province as a temporary lawful protest site. I am sure it is no surprise that while progress is being made, it is slow and not without challenges.

- For Emerson, we are redirecting traffic where possible. Apparently Thursday is a major crossing day for livestock, and we are looking at what can be done to facilitate moving these trucks across the border.

- Also in Manitoba, the demonstration at the Winnipeg legislature is ongoing, but is being well-managed by the Winnipeg Police Service.

- There is open source reporting of plans to block CN railways, as well as multiple solidarity protests across the country heading into the weekend. We already have at least 24 protests planned at locations across BC between now and the end of the weekend, with more on the radar for late February and early March.

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- There are another 5 currently planned in Nova Scotia and 5 in Manitoba. This is just what we know of now, but I expect there will be more.

- Managing these protests is a huge draw on the RCMP's Contract Policing resources – especially with Article 9 having been invoked in Alberta.

- Therefore, RCMP resources to support Ottawa Police and efforts in Windsor need to come from Federal Policing. Thus far, we have deployed the resources we can. Deploying more will have a huge impact on operations, including a number of national security investigations.

- Thank you.

[APG]